

MR853-742

Serial Number: 10/772,759

Reply to Office Action dated 26 December 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

At the outset, the courtesies extended by both the Examiner and his Primary Examiner in granting the 4 March 2008 interview are noted with much appreciation. At the interview, the references cited by the Examiner in the 26 December 2007 Office Action were discussed in light of the clarifying amendments proposed to the Claims, as set forth herein.

Responsive to the 26 December 2007 Office Action and the discussions had at the interview, Claim 19 is amended for further prosecution with the other pending Claims. It is believed that the amendments to Claim 19 now further clarify its recitations.

As suggested by the Examiners at the interview, A notational amendment has been incorporated into Fig. 22 for clarity. In addition, appropriate amendments have been incorporated into a paragraph of the Specification for consistency with this notational amendment of Fig. 22, and for consistency of terminology with the Claims. These changes are purely formal in nature and find basis in the Specification and Drawings as originally filed. The changes therefore introduce no new matter.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by the Carr reference. The Examiner also rejected Claims 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carr in view of the

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Lipp, et al. reference and the Parmley publication. The Examiner cited Lipp, et al. and Parmley for disclosing certain cartridge connection features.

As newly-amended independent Claim 19 now more clearly recites, Applicant's manicuring appliance includes among its combinations of features a proximal member which includes a cutting implement provided with "a flat metal sheet portion and a bulbous folded region extending therefrom," as well as "a curved front end portion projecting from said folded region." The folded region defines a first cutting edge, while the curved front end defines "a second cutting edge transversely oriented in relation to said first cutting edge," as Claim 19 further clarifies.

The full combination of these and other features now more clearly recited by Applicant's pending Claims is nowhere disclosed by the cited references. The primarily-cited Carr reference is directed to a dual head razor whose razor heads 13, 14 are of the conventional type holding straight double blades 17. The prevailing structure nowhere provides for such features as "a bulbous folded region," much less one from which "a curved front end portion project[s]" to define a "transversely oriented" cutting edge as Claim 19, for example, recites.

Given the readily distinguishable disclosures of Carr's device, the disclosures of the secondarily-cited Lipp, et al. and Parmley references are found to be largely ineffectual to the present patentability analysis. They are simply directed to isolated connection details and do not remedy the deficiencies of Carr.

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It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the Carr, Lipp, et al., and Parmley references, even when considered together, fail to disclose the unique combinations of elements now more clearly recited by Applicant's pending Claims for the purposes and objectives disclosed in the subject Patent Application.

It is now believed that the subject Patent Application has been placed fully in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed to be due with this Amendment. If there are any charges associated with this filing, the Honorable Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account #18-2011 for such charges.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 3/26/2008

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Art Unit #3724, facsimile number 571-273-8300 on the date shown below.

3/26/2008
Date


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MAR 26 2008**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

The attached sheet of Drawings includes changes to Fig. 22. This sheet which includes Figs. 20-23 replaces the original sheet including those Figures. In Fig. 22, reference character 119 is added for notational clarity.

Attachment: replacement sheet